Appln No. 09/810,892 Amdt date July 26, 2004 Reply to Office action of April 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-8, 11-16, 19-24, 27-32, 35-40, 43-48, 51-58 will be pending in this application after entry of the above amendments. Claims 3, 11, 19, 27, 35, 43, and 51 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 9-10, 17-18, 25-26, 33-34, 41-42, and 49-50 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 9-10, 17-18, 25-26, 33-34, 41-42, and 49-50 as anticipated by Doverspike et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2002/0097671A1). The Examiner indicated, however, that claims 3-8, 11-16, 19-24, 27-32, 35-40, 43-48, and 51-56 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 57 and 58 have been allowed.

In attempts to advance prosecution of this case, Applicant has canceled rejected claims 1-2, 9-10, 17-18, 25-26, 33-34, 41-42, and 49-50. Applicant has also rewritten claims 3, 11, 19, 27, 35, 43, and 51 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 3-8, 11-16, 19-24, 27-32, 35-40, 43-48, 51-56, and 57-58.

Respectfully submitted, CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

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